AN ABSTRACT of the *Charter* and large Privileges, granted by the *States-General* of the united *Netherlands*, to the *Dutch-African* and *West-India* Company; Dated the 26th of *September*, 1674. Containing also their *REASONS*, for carrying on that Trade, by an Exclusive Joint-Stock.

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BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

THE States General of the *United Netherlands* send Greeting, To all to whom these Presents shall come; Be it known that We, having found, by Experience, that the Welfare of this Country consists in Navigation and Commerce (which can hardly be maintain'd without the Help and Assistance of most of our considerable Inhabitants) have formerly ted an *African* and *West-India* Company; but the Affairs of that Company being, by several sters, brought into such Circumstances, as made them unwilling to continue our Charter any ger; And our said Charter expiring, of course, the last of *September* instant, We have thought to declare the same void; Desiring, nevertheless, that our aforesaid Inhabitants, and especially former Adventurers, be not only preserved in the aforesaid Navigation and Traffick; but that the same may, together with our Manufactures, and the good of our Country, be inased. And having further taken into Consideration that without the common Help and Assance of a General Company, nothing of Profit can arise from trading in those Parts; since the ade thither cannot be maintained without great Adventures and Charges, or without the had also of Pirates, and for several other Reasons and Considerations moving Us thereunto, We e, with mature Deliberation, found good and concluded, that the Negotiation and Commerce *Africa*, and the other Parts herein assign'd, shall be carried on, no otherways, than by an ited Company of the former Adventurers and new Depositants, who shall be readily and willgly by Us encourag'd; which Company, out of a special Affection to our Country, and the abitants thereof, and for the Preservation of the said Trade, We will maintain and stand by, h our Favour, Help and Assistance, so far as we are capable; and do therefore establish and est them with the Charter and Privileges following, *viz.* That until the Year 1700, none of Inhabitants or Natives of these Countries, (otherwise than the said United Company) nor Foreigners, shall Trade or Sail on the Coasts and Parts of *Africa*, from the *Tropick Cancer* to Latitude of 30 Degrees South of the *Equinoctial*, or to any of the Islands belonging to that ast.

And whoever shall, without the Consent of the aforesaid Company, Sail or Traffick to any of aforesaid Places, within the limits of this Charter, shall forfeit Ship and Goods to the use the said Company. And in case such Ship or Goods be sold, or put into any Foreign Port Haven, the Owners and Freighters shall be bound to make good such Ship and Goods.

There shall also no Money be lent upon Bottomree, or any thing of Profit given, or any Inance made in favour of Intruders, where the said Company have an Exclusive Negotiation, ether they be Subjects of this State or Strangers, upon Penalty of Confiscation of Money and ods, for the use of the said Company.

And in case any of our Subjects shall happen to make Contracts with or for Strangers, to the judice of the said Company; it shall be, on the penalty of forfeiting such Sums as are coned in the Contracts, to be executed at the Charge of such Subjects or Inhabitants, as shall venture to make any such Contracts.

All Ships imploy'd by the said Company, for carrying Negroes or other Merchandize, and making turns to or from any of the said Places, shall be Ships properly belonging to the said Comy, or at least so freighted, that the Master and his Mates shall be appointed and paid by the d Company.

Further, the aforesaid Company may, in our Name, and by our Authority, within the its before specified, make Contracts and Alliances with the Princes and Subjects of the afored Countries; as also erect Fortifications, make and constitute Governours and Officers, and raise diers, and do all other necessary things for the Preservation and Enlarging of their Trade, and maintaining of good Order and Policy in those Places; Declaring hereby that all such Acts Determinations, as shall by them be concluded, within the Limits of their Charter, as well ating to our Subjects, one with the other, as between them and Strangers, shall remain and nd good, in as full force, as if the same were adjudged by our Judges of the highest Quality e at Home.

Memorandum.

THAT, for the said Company's further Encouragement, the States have, in the Body of the said Charter, oblig'd themselves to furnish the said Company with 200 Soldiers, and suitable Officers, be maintain'd at the Cost and Charge of the States, for the first Eight Years; and if needful, support them always with sixteen Ships of War, as their Occasions may happen to require.

The other parts of the Charter, do consist of many discretionary and illimited Privileges, relation to the Management of their Affairs on the Coast of *Africa*; and prescribing several les, as to the manner of raising their Joint-Stock, and the Government of their Company at me.

The said Company is still continued with the same Privileges, for a further Term of Years; ording to the wonted Custom and Usage of the States, in Encouraging their Subjects in all venturous Undertakings.

AN ABSTRACT of the Charter and large Privileges, granted by the States-General of the united Netherlands, to the Dutch-African and West-India-Company; Dated the 26th of September, 1674. Containing also their Royal Charter for carrying on that Trade, by an exclusive Joint-Stock.

THE States General of the United Netherland, send Greeting, To all to whom these Presents shall come; Be it known that We, having found, by Experience, that the Welfare of this Country consists in Navigation and Commerce (which can hardly be maintain'd with out the Help and Assistance of most of our considerable Inhabitants) have formerly granted to the Dutch-African and West-India Company; but the Affairs of that Company being, by several Accidents, brought into such Circumstances, as made them unwilling to continue our Charter any longer; And our said Charter expiring, of course, the 1st of September instant, We have thought fit to declare the same void; Declaring, nevertheless, that our aforesaid Inhabitants, and especially former Adventurers, be not only preferred in the aforesaid Navigation and Traffick; but that the same may, together with our Manufactures, and the good of our Country, be increased. And having further taken into Consideration that without the common Help and Assistance of a General Company, nothing of Profit can arise from trading in whole Parts; Sure the same cannot be maintained without great Adventures and Charges, or without the Hazard of Pirates, and for several other Reasons and Considerations moving Us thereunto, We, with mature Deliberation, found good and concluded, that the Negotiation and Commerce aforesaid, and the other Parts therein alleg'd, shall be carried on, no otherways, than by an united Company of the former Adventurers and new Disposants, who shall be readily and willingly by Us encouraged; which Company, out of a special Affection to our Country, and the inhabitants thereof, and for the Preservation of the said Trade, We will maintain and hold by our Favour, Help and Assistance, so far as we are capable; and do thereof to establish and them with the Charter and Privileges following, viz. That until the Year 1709, none of Inhabitants or Natives of whole Countries, (otherwise than the said United Company) nor Foreigners, shall Trade or Sail on the Coasts and Parts of Africa, from the Tropic Cancer to Latitude of 20 Degrees South of the Equinoctial, or to any of the Ilands belonging to that

and wherever shall, without the Consent of the aforesaid Company, Sail or Traffick to any of aforesaid Places, within the limits of this Charter, shall forfeit Ship and Goods to the aforesaid Company. And in case such Ship or Goods be sold, or put into any Forreign Port Haven, the Owners and Freighters shall be bound to make good such Ship and Goods.

Where shall also no Money be lent upon Bottomree, or any thing of Profit given, or any Insurance made in favour of Intruders, where the said Company have an Exclusive Negotiation, whereby be Subjects of this State or Strangers, upon Penalty of Confiscation of Money and Goods, for the use of the said Company.

And whereas it may happen to make Contracts with or for Strangers, to the Prejudice of this State, be, on the penalty of forfeiting such Sums as are contracted for, and double the Charge of such Subjects or Inhabitants, as shall

for carrying on Trade, for carrying Negroes or other Merchandize, and making Sales, shall be Ships properly belonging to the said Company, whereof the Master and his Mates shall be appointed and paid by the

And We, in our Name, and by our Authority, within the Alliances with the Princes and Subjects of the aforesaid Places, make and constitute Governours and Officers, and raise Forts for the Preservation and Enlarging of their Trade, and in those Places; Declaring hereby that all such Acts concluded, within the Limits of their Charter, as well between them and Strangers, shall remain and good, in as full force, as if the same were adjudged by our Judges of the highest Quality at Home.

1713.

THAT, for the said Company's further Encouragement, the States have, in the Body of the said Charter, oblig'd themselves to furnish the said Company with 20 Soldiers, and for 8 Officers, maintain'd at the Cost and Charge of the States, for the first Eight Years; and if needful, support them always with fifteen Ships of War, as their Occasions may happen to require. The other parts of the Charter, do confirm of many dilcretionary and limited Privileges, relation to the Management of their Affairs on the Coast of Africa; and prescribing several s, as to the manner of raising their Joint-Stock, and the Government of their Company at

The said Company is still continued with the same Privilege, for a further Term of Years; ding to the wonted Custom and Usage of the States, in Encouraging their Subjects in all rarious Undertakings.